IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 5 as follows:

--To analyze the specific expression of MMP-8 gen, a PCR reaction was set up using the primers or oligonucleotides specific for this gene according to the experimental conditions described hereinafter: in a reaction tube containing 2 l of cDNA 5 l of 2.5 mM Mg CL_2, 5 l 5X buffer for the polimerase enzyme, from leukemia murine virus moloney (MMLV), 1 of 2.5 mM dTNPs, 5 l of the sense primer 3 μM, 5 l of the antisense primer 3 μM, 1 l of the polymerase enzyme (U/l) and it is taken to a final volume of 50 l with deionized water (Innis et al. 1990). The oligonucleotide sense primer specific for MMP-8 is 5'-AGCTGTCAGAGGCTGGAGGTAGAAA-3' (SEQ. ID 1), and the antisense primer is 5'-CCTGAAAGCATAGTTGGGATACAT-3'(SEQ. ID 2) (Cole et al. 1996). After the addition of these reagents, the mix was placed in a thermalcycler during 30 cycles according to the following program: denaturation (94°C, 5 min), annealing (60°C, 1 min) and extension (72°C, 1.5 min). Then, PCR products are submitted to electrophoresis (60 mV, 1.5 h) in a 1.5% agarose gel.--